

R E V I E W.

Tuesday, August 5. 1712.

BEfore I go on to lay down a Scheme of the State of the Nation, with which I purposed to begin this Work ; I am call'd off to say something, to the new Turn the Publick Affairs have taken Abroad.

I have in several Papers given my Opinion, That the *Dutch* resolve to carry on the War without us, and should have Success, it will in its Consequences necessarily involve us in a War with them — I have even such Reasons for it, as I have not yet seen one word of Answer to, except Raillery and ill Language; nor have I seen the least Reason to alter my opinion.

The Partiality and Injustice of those, who will have it be a Writing for a War with the *Dutch*, I despise with the utmost Contempt; every Days News confirms what I have said, and now its contrary confirms abundantly; I declare to believe, and ever was of that Opinion, that we can have no War with the *Dutch*, but what must be a Judgment upon us: That a War with the *Dutch* will be ruinous to our Commerce, dangerous to the Protestant Succession, fatal to the Protestant Interest in general, and distracting *Europe*; that at Home it would stagnate our Manufactures, starve our Poor, interrupt our Navigation, lessen our Exports of the Growth of our Country, and be many other ways destructive to our Prosperity in general. I protest against wishing for it, or desiring it, any more than I do for the Plague, or, as I said formerly, for a Second Fire of *London*; and no Man in *England* can desire it, upon any Principle but that of a *Jacobite* or a *General Incendiary* of his Country, and thus I have said always.

Not that I expect by this, to convince those People, who are obstinately determin'd to rail, and who think for their Interest to have the World believe that I am of another Opinion; I know them too well, and I value not their Slanders so much, as to expect Reason from them so easily; and yet, with my Service to them, I had rather see Five Hundred of them hang'd, than a War with the *Dutch*, and do not think myself a drop of Blood neither.

And yet not a Word of this contradicts what I said before, and which I repeat as the Product of sense and Thought, That if the Confederates carry on a War without us, if they have Success, the Consequences of it will unavoidably embroil us with them — and this is the Reason why I said, I cannot cordially wish them Success, not that I do not wish the *Dutch* as well as any of You, but because I cannot wish to quarrel with them, and I think my Reason very good still.

Be as partial and as obstinate as you please, there is

a time coming, when this will be better Sense than it seems you wou'd have it be now; and if you have no Ears to hear now, you will then; and you will find the *Dutch* are so sensible of the Truth of this, that they are already taking Measures to make Us all Friends with them.

But we have for the present a new Prospect of Things, the mighty Boasts of running to the Gates of *Paris*, and bringing the *French* King on his Knees in spite of the *English*, is on a sudden check'd by the immediate Hand of Heaven, and his Hand seems turn'd against the Confederate Army in a surprizing manner.

I am none of those, who with *Job's* Three Friends, conclude the Prosperity or ill Success of Affairs, are a stated Signal of the Justice or Injustice of a Cause, or of the Favour or Displeasure of Heaven: I know that God may, and often does, in the Sovereignty of his Providence, suffer, even his own Interest and Cause in the World to be oppress'd by his Enemies; and therefore I shall make no Inferences to the Disadvantage of the Confederates as to the Justice of their Separate War, from the Change of Affairs, tho' much might be said to that Head too.

I am none of those who charge the *Dutch* with State-Ambition, aiming at Dominions, and at encreasing their Power to the Terror of their Neighbours: Common-Wealths very rarely study Conquest, but rather Security: I'll allow the *Dutch* as much Ambition in Commerce as you please, but for enlarging Dominion, the nature of their Constitution does not make that Charge seem reasonable upon them; their Strength I think, can never be Dangerous to *Europe*, as they are Circumstanc'd; and therefore I have always spoken for such a Partition of the *Spanish* Monarchy, and such Additions out of it, both to them and to us, as should have made *England* and *Holland* respectively, much stronger and much greater than they are; that TOGETHER, they might have been a Match for all the *Popish* Powers in *Europe*; to do which, I should have made no Scruple, (with some Restrictions of Trade) to have given all the *Spanish* Netherlands to the *Dutch* entirely, and in Sovereignty, excepting a Part of *South-East Flanders*, to the *English*, and to have given *Great-Britain* a Proportion of Strength and Trade in *America*: But all I can say of this, is not to be heard now.

On the other hand, I am none of those, that think it safe for Us to have the Confederates beaten by the *French*, and by the same Principle, from which I say, That the Success of the Confederates against *France* without Us, would involve us in a War with the

Confederates

Confederates ; by the same Rule, turning the Tables, I say, That the *French* pushing the Confederates with Success, whether we will or no, must of Necessity involve us again in a War against *France*.

Nothing is more astonishing to me, than to see, that the Age should not take in this Argument, which is so natural as that nothing is plainer, and this makes me complain that they wrong me in their Censures : The *QUEEN* by drawing out of the War, and placing Her self as a Neuter, has put her self, not only in a Posture of bringing the Contending Parties to a Peace, but even under a Necessity of doing it.

One of our Writers, who abounds in his own Sense, says, That the *French* putting *Dunkirk* into Her Majesty's Hands, does not give Her the Ballance of *Europe* to hold, and singly speaking, I grant it does not ; but the Queen's drawing out of the War, and placing her self as a Neuter, does effectually do it ; and without doubt the Ballance of *Europe* is in Her Hands at this Time ; for that it is apparent, neither Side can carry on the War, if the *QUEEN* should act against them.

That the *French* cannot — is acknowledg'd by those who complain so heavily at Our drawing out of the War, at a Time, when they say, *France* was just reduced, and could not have stood out another Summer, and it is, I think, more acknowledg'd by the *French* themselves other ways, nor do I think any one doubts it. —

That the Confederates cannot, will be too apparent, if it should come to be try'd, and is like to be made plain by their Inability to do it, while we stand but Neuter, tho' we do not A& against them.

If then neither Party are able to carry on the War, if the Queen should act against them ; nothing can be more plain, Than that the Ballance is in the Queen's Hand ; if these are Words without Argument, as some People call every thing they cannot answer, let them mend it if they can.

The *French* King has farther conceded the Ballance of *Europe* to the Queen, by putting *Dunkirk* into her Hands, giving Her Majesty the Key of his Dominions, and an open Door as we may call it, into his Kingdoms, which we see the whole Confederate Power could not obtain, as a Pledge that he yields her that Ballance.

If then Success against the *Dutch* should give him Occasion to push his Conquests too far, what can fol-

low ? But that it must embroil us again in a War with *France* ; for let the *Dutch* be as ill-natur'd as they will, upon the Subject of the Peace, we will not let *France* ruin them, no, nor must we let *France* take from them the Barrier, needful to secure the Peace of *Europe*, for this is our Barrier as well as theirs.

Now here are two contending Parties fighting. Either we must hold the Ballance between them, let which Side soever Conquer, we may be exposed to them : Ambition on one Side, (*France*) or Sentiments on the other, (*Holland* and *Germany*) I think fit to humble us, for not taking Part with them, and therefore, the Necessity upon us is plain, I mean in Policy, to let neither go on so far, as to ruin the other.

DUNKIRK is now in our Hands as a Pledge from *France*, That he will not, whatever his Success shall be, go back from his Offers of Peace. If Success prompts him to break his Engagement, *Dunkirk* is Forfeited to Us, and we are under a Necessity of renewing the War — This would be the Consequences of *French* Victory, and the like of the other Side, as I have said ahead.

I appeal to all Impartial Judgments, whether this is our Case or no, and whether this is right reasoning or no ? They then who rejoyce at the Success of the *French*, and would have it go on to ruin the Confederates, are Mad-men, and know not what they talk of ; for let the *Dutch* be ruin'd when they will, We must make them whole again ; and the dead Weight of the War would be upon us again more than ever : And this made me always think, no Man can desire a War with the *Dutch*, but an Incendiary or a Jacobite.

A good PEACE is the middle of all, and the only Step that can now be taken, for as they are fighting now, 'tis all Destruction to us, and let which Side soever conquer, involves Great-Britain, either on one Side or other in a War.

But the *Dutch* are too wise to let it run on, and therefore have given in a new Scheme of a Peace, which I have much Reason to hope, every Body will agree to, and then a happy PEACE may follow, which is what all honest Men wish for : I shall never believe, till I see it, that either the *Dutch* will continue the War, or that the *French* will believe Downy.